



News Release

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Inspector General
Washington, DC 20546

For Release

July 7, 2000

Roberta L. Gross
Inspector General
(Phone: 202-358-1220)

Samuel A. Maxey
Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
(Phone: 202-358-1233)

RELEASE: 2000-070

FORMER NASA CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEE CHARGED AND ARRESTED

On June 28, 2000, Carl Somerlock, District Court Commissioner, Montgomery County, District of Maryland, charged Deede Blum, a former NASA contractor, with three felony theft counts: Two counts of Theft (\$300 Plus Value) and one count of Theft-Scheme (\$300 Plus Value), which are violations of Maryland State Statute 27 Section 342. Each count carries penalties of up to 15 years incarceration and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The charges state that Blum contracted with and was paid by the Goddard Employee Welfare Association (GEWA) to fund and arrange a cruise to the Bahamas, however, she never made the arrangements and only refunded a portion of the money to the GEWA. It was also alleged that Blum defrauded other clients of thousands of dollars. Blum was arrested on these charges on July 6, 2000, by the Las Vegas Police Department, NV, and is awaiting extradition.

This investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the NASA Office of Inspector General, Office of Criminal Investigations. Prosecution is being handled by the Maryland District Attorney's Office, Montgomery County.

-End-